

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, VT
SUBJECT: EAST-WEST RELATIONS

REF: STATE 043807

WE CALLED ON "FOREIGN MINISTER" ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI ON MARCH 3. HE WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF HAVING US PERSPECTIVES ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY CURRENTS AND CROSS-CURRENTS AFFECTING THESE RELATIONS BUT THAT HOLY SEE ENDORSED USG PURSUIT OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS THROUGH POLICY OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH. HE REFERRED IN THIS CONNECTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S PREFERENCE FOR NOT USING TERM "DETENTE" FOR CHARACTERIZING PROCESS OF RELAXATION OF TENSION AND SAID THAT TERM WAS NOT IMPORTANT AS LONG AS USG WAS ENGAGED IN SERIOUS EFFORT TO MANAGE SUPERPOWER RELATIONSHIPS, PARTICULARLY IN AREA OF STRATEGIC BALANCE. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH HOLY SEE, BECAUSE OF ITS PARTICULAR MISSION, STRESSED THEME OF PEACE, IT UNDERSTANDS VERY WELL THAT US MILITARY STRENGTH REMAINED KEY TO CONTAINMENT OF SOVIET EXPANSION AS WELL AS FOR FUTURE PROGRESS IN RELAXING WORLD TENSIONS. ALTHOUGH CASAROLI DID NOT REFER DIRECTLY TO FORMER-PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP TO CHINA, HE STATED THAT US AMITY WITH CHINA WAS IMPORTANT INGREDIENT FOR STABILITY IN EUROPE BECAUSE IT RESTRAINED USSR MISCHIEF IN EUROPE BY REQUIRING STATIONING LARGE SOVIET FORCES NEAR CHINESE FRONTIERS. VOLPE

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